

Assad-Hizbollah begin peace talks

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian forces and their Hizbollah allies whose three-year-old feud has already killed more than 700 people have held their first peace talks in 16 months. Israeli sources said Friday, Iran and Syria arranged the meeting between the Arab militia and its rival Hizbollah (Party of God) group in Lebanon's Bekaa valley. The groups, competing for leadership of Lebanon's civil war, officially met late Thursday under the auspices of a team of military intelligence in Lebanon. Brigadier Ghazi Kassam, Assad's chief of staff, and General Hassan Alkhatib, their Hizbollah counterpart, the first since January last year, took place at the Syrian government's headquarters in west Beirut. The militia sources said the two sides discussed ways of consolidating a truce and implementing a permanent agreement to end hostilities last year by Assad and Hizbollah. The peace, which would end the two would end, Hizbollah would be allowed to resume guerrilla activity against Israel from bases in South Lebanon and Assad would bear security responsibility in the south.

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Chinese defence minister arrives

AMMAN (Pera) — Chinese Defence Minister Qia Jiwei arrived in Amman Friday on a several-day official visit during which he will meet senior officials and visit several military and civil sites in the Kingdom. The Chinese minister and the accompanying delegation were received at the airport by Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fahmi Abu Taleb, his assistant for intelligence affairs, the Royal Jordanian Air Force commander, the inspector general, the Chinese ambassador to Jordan and the Chinese military attaché in Amman. In an arrival statement, the Chinese minister landed His Majesty King Hussein's wise leadership and relations between Jordan and China.

U.S. steps up Cyprus efforts

NICOSIA (R) — The United States is working vigorously to reunite the divided island of Cyprus, Washington's special Cyprus coordinator Nelson Leddy said Friday. The U.S. envoy said he had completed a round of talks with both Greek and Turkish-Cypriot leaders this week and hoped to revive the reuniification talks in the next two months. "The United States government is recommitting itself to work diligently and with all deliberate speed to bring about a fair, just and lasting Cyprus solution," he said. "I came to (Cyprus) certainly committed to the notion that we can get a negotiated successful solution," Leddy said.

Uzbek president declares emergency

MOSCOW (R) — The president of Soviet Uzbekistan said Friday ethnic violence was spreading into his republic from neighbouring Kirghizia and asked Moscow for help to prevent skirmishes degenerating into full-scale conflict. TASS news agency said Islam Karimov imposed a state of emergency in a number of districts around Andizhan, on the border between the two republics, and appealed to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to help quell the fighting. In Frunze, capital of Kirghizia, thousands of mourners paid silent tribute to the victims of four days of fighting between Uzbeks and Kirghiz which has killed at least 78 (see page 8).

Former Costa Rican president dies

SAN JOSE (AP) — Former President Jose Figueres died Friday at the age of 83, the office of the president said. Figueres died at home in San Jose, presidential spokesman Ana Lorena Vargas said. Figueres, who was elected president three times, abolished the army in 1948. The cause of his death was not disclosed, Vargas said.

Britain grants \$3 million for Sudan relief

LONDON (AP) — Britain has allocated £3 million (\$3.1 million) for Operation Lifeline Sudan, the government said Friday. One-third of that amount was allocated to the International Committee of the Red Cross for operation in southern Sudan, and the rest went to several non-government organisations. Lynda Chalker, minister for overseas development, said in a written statement to the House of Commons, Britain contributed £7.2 million (\$12.2 million) for Operation Lifeline Sudan in 1989, she said.

Israel says PLO expanding control in South Lebanon

RASHAYA, Lebanon (R) — An Israeli military official said Friday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had expanded its control in South Lebanon, near the Jewish State's northern borders. Zeev Zakharia, who heads the Israeli liaison office, said the PLO now controlled a 25-kilometre deep strip of land stretching from the coastal port of Sidon to the town of Jezzine near Israel's self-declared "security zone" in Lebanon.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

Russian federation declares supremacy

MOSCOW (R) — The Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic, declared Friday that its constitution now took precedence over Soviet law. TASS news agency said, The Russian federation parliament, led by rebel President Boris Yeltsin, approved by 544 votes to 271 an article which declared that Soviet law which conflicts with sovereign Russian rights "are suspended by the republic on its territory." TASS added, It said a full declaration of sovereignty for the Russian Federation, which includes 160 million of the country's total population of 280 million, would be ready for endorsement by the middle of next week. Yeltsin, an outspoken critic of Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev, declared after his election as Russian president two weeks ago that he would push the law through. He also reserved the right of the Russian Federation to secede from the Soviet Union. But he had said he is not proposing this step. The Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia took a similar move as a first step to the later declarations of independence.

Badran accuses Israel of paralysing peace efforts

By Alistair Lyon
Reuters

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mindar Badran accused Israel Thursday of using trivial pretext to paralyse progress towards a Middle East peace settlement.

"Israel set complicated conditions to meet Palestinians and the aim was not to make peace easier — even the Americans found them paralysing," Badran told Reuters in an interview.

For Israel to dispute the inclusion of Palestinians expelled from the occupied territories in a Palestinian negotiating team was stupid, he said.

"If we want to get stuck on trivialities like that... there is no sincere attempt to tackle the issue of peace," said Badran, who began a second term as premier in December.

He criticised prolonged Israeli efforts to form a new government and said inducements to small parties to back Labour or Likud were complicating the broader peace effort.

"During this period the Israelis have been trying to run from peace under the pretext that there is no government. This has deflated American efforts to move the situation," he said.

Israel's coalition government collapsed in March over Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's refusal to accept U.S. proposals for unprecedented Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo.

"For the first time the Arabs said

Shamir rejected a suggestion Thursday from Israeli President Chaim Herzog that he enter talks on a new coalition yoking his Likud bloc with the Labour party led by Shimon Peres, who advocated acceptance of Washington's ideas.

Badran said a tide of Soviet Jewish immigrants and more Israeli settlements in occupied Arab land were blocking peace.

"The Israelis are removing the force for peace. There is no way to peace through hegemony and settlements," he said.

Badran suggested that freedom for Soviet Jews to go to Israel be linked to progress towards a Middle East settlement.

Shamir Monday refused to give guarantees sought by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev that Soviet Jews would not move to the occupied territories. Israel says it is not encouraging them to settle there.

Badran said that even if Israel gave such guarantees, Moscow and Washington should jointly monitor observance of the pledge.

Israel expects up to 250,000 Soviet Jewish immigrants to arrive this year and up to a million over the next few years.

Amman fears they will displace Palestinians from the West Bank and a new wave of refugees across the Jordan River.

"We just cannot take another odyssey," Badran said, citing severe water shortages in Jordan, which has absorbed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians since the creation of Israel in 1948.

The prime minister voiced satisfaction at the outcome of last month's Arab summit in Baghdad, despite the absence of Syria.

He described last month's protest



Mindar Badran

in Jordan as a release of past frustrations as well as a response to the May 20 murder of eight Arabs by an Israeli gunman.

"It was a good lesson in democracy for the Lower House of Parliament and the people, and I don't think it will recur," he said of the unrest in which four people were killed.

Asked if pro-Syrian groups and Muslim extremists had incited the Arab summit, he said he heard Al Quds radio, run by the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, calling on refugee camps to "rise up."

"Any recurrence means it is part of a hostile plot against the country executed by foreign intelligence agencies," he said.

Members of parliament and the public must learn that Jordan's national democracy involved responsibility and respect for the law.

"Democracy is a very new experience for us... and the people and the authorities need time to absorb it. It's a matter of time and patience, but I am convinced that the future of this country lies through democracy," he added.

In the interview with the Jordan Times, Badran indicated that the PLO was still determined not to comply to American conditions regardless of the American reaction.

Abed Rabbo cautions U.S. against breaking dialogue

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior Palestinian official warned Friday that any American decision to cut off its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will disqualify Washington from playing a constructive role in the peace process and will provide a green light to an escalation of Israel's moves aimed at suppressing the Palestinian uprising.

"Such a decision will amount to an American declaration that it is unable to play a positive and constructive role in the Middle East peace process or disqualify itself from such a role and provide a green light for a wide scale Israeli suppression (of the intifada)," Abed Rabbo said.

If the U.S. chose to suspend the dialogue, the PLO will call for the Arab foreign and finance ministers to meet in "the very near future."

"The PLO wants this meeting to take place as soon as possible to discuss the Jewish immigration and the U.S. position," he said.

PLO officials have been urging Arab governments to counter the U.S. position, particularly the American veto last week of United Nations Security Council resolution calling for the despatch of a fact-finding mission to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Since then the PLO has been trying, in coordination with other European countries, to find an alternative formula which aims at creating a mechanism to protect the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

Abed Rabbo disclosed that the PLO was trying to move the discussions on the issue to the General Assembly to avoid an American veto at the Security Council. He said that the Arab countries at the General Assembly will launch a campaign for an alternative resolution under the slogan of "united for peace."

"Moving the discussions to the General Assembly will enable us to secure an alternative resolution with the same authority," Abed Rabbo said.

Analysts noted that such a move will also test the support of the PLO from the Eastern European countries which used to consistently support the PLO at the General Assembly prior to the recent anti-communist upheavals in Eastern Europe.

Shamir coalition seeks to end intifada, expand settlements

the 120-member Knesset, or parliament.

Shamir telephoned President Chaim Herzog to report the new coalition, fulfilling the legal requirement before his 42-day mandate for putting together a coalition ran out at sundown with the beginning of the sabbath.

A vote can now be scheduled in the Knesset, possibly as early as Monday.

Shamir's government, once approved in the Knesset, would end the political uncertainty that has gripped Israel for nearly three months as first Labour leader Shimon Peres and then Shamir tried to bring together a coalition.

Shamir's government, once approved in the Knesset, would end the political uncertainty that has gripped Israel for nearly three months as first Labour leader Shimon Peres and then Shamir tried to bring together a coalition.

Guidelines of the new government, the first fully controlled by Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc since 1984, promised to "uproot" the 30-month Palestinian uprising and expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Shamir announced the government was formed after a ceremony for the signing of the coalition agreement.

The major effort of the government will be made on the most important issue we are facing today, the absorption of the mass immigration," Shamir said, referring to the thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel.

"Together with that we'll deal with all the other issues, advancing the peace process, solving economic and social problems," he said.

Shamir's agreement would give him a majority of 62 votes in

Israelis seal off Gaza home

OCCUPIED GAZA STRIP (Agencies) — The Israeli army

Friday sealed the home of Mazen Baker, an activist accused of involvement in killing collaborators. Twenty-one people live in the house.

In the same neighbourhood, dozens of soldiers raided the home of Mahmoud Rayyes, searching for his son Atif, 18, who has been wanted by the Israeli authorities for eight months.

Palestinians said the soldiers threatened to demolish the family home if the family did not hand over the youth to the army.

In the occupied West Bank, 120,000 Palestinians were under curfew for the fourth day in the city of Nablus and surrounding refugee camps.

A Palestinian accused of collaborating with Israel was found dead in the main street of an occupied West Bank village.

Emad Al Saleh, 25, named as a collaborator in leaflets by activists of the Palestinian uprising, was killed in the village of Zibad, near Tulkarm.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the

Baker: No decision to break off dialogue

TURNBERRY, Scotland (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said Friday Washington had not decided whether to break off dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for its failure to condemn an attempted guerrilla attack on Israel.

He told a news conference at the end of a NATO ministerial meeting in this Scottish town: "When we are satisfied we know all we need to know, we will act in a way which reflects our commitment to promoting peace but being resolute in condemning terrorism."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat is resisting U.S. pressure to condemn the attack carried out on May 30 by the Palestinian Liberation Front, a faction of the PLO.

Arafat distanced himself from the operation, saying the PLO's "institution and official forces" had no connection with it.

A senior U.S. source said American officials had already had three or four meetings with the PLO about the issue and that Baker would soon make a decision about the future of the talks.

In Washington, diplomatic sources quoted by AP said the United States had decided to suspend the talks with the PLO and would announce it next week.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the

NATO welcomes Warsaw Pact shift

TURNBERRY, Scotland (R) — The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) Friday welcomed radical plans for change in its cold war adversary, the Warsaw Pact, and committed itself to further talks on deeper cuts in armed forces across the European continent.

The alliance's 16 foreign ministers, at the end of the two-day meeting in Scotland, reaffirmed that a united Germany should be a NATO member but also said they would take into account Soviet concerns about this.

"Our alliance is not a threat to anyone," NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner told a news conference.

He said the alliance wanted to create a new landscape where no country would threaten any other.

"It is clear that the Soviet Union would gain even in a situation where Germany was a member of our alliance," he said.

"We are encouraged by the positive spirit conveyed in this declaration," the ministers said in a statement.

They also agreed to seek new ways of putting fresh impetus into the stalled Vienna talks on cutting conventional forces in Europe (CFE), so that a treaty could be signed this year and called on the Soviet Union to

agree on the main issues this summer.

But the ministers repeated that a landmark summit of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) would not take place without a CFE treaty, which is designed to cut U.S. and Soviet

troop levels in Central Europe to 195,000, scrap thousands of tanks and other pieces of heavy equipment.

"As soon as a CFE agreement is reached the allies will be prepared to undertake follow-on negotiations to further enhance security and stability in Europe," the statement said.

Baker said that after meeting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Copenhagen this week he was also more optimistic that the problem of Germany's military status could be solved.

Underdog Cameroun defeats Argentina

MILAN (AP) — Cameroun, which finished the match with only nine players, scored a 1-0 victory over defending champion Argentina Friday in the opening game of the World Cup soccer tournament — one of the biggest upsets in the 60-year history of the championship.

Francois Omam Biyik scored the only goal of the game in the 66th minute after Cameroun had been reduced to 10 players.

Defender Andrei Kara Biyik was ejected in the 62nd minute for a foul on Argentine substitute Claudio Caniggia.

Biyik scored after the Argentine defense failed to clear a free kick from the left. He was given a free header, which he directed downwards. Goalkeeper Nery Pumpido let the ball slip under his body.

Defender Benjamin Massing also was sent off in the dying minutes after a blatant foul on Caniggia.

The Cameroun team played rugged defensive soccer and repeatedly threatened Argentina on the counterattack.

Argentine captain Diego Maradona was frequently fouled by the Cameroun defense, but otherwise had little impact on the game.

Cameroun maintained its remarkable unbeaten record in World Cup play. It drew all three of opening round games in 1982, but was eliminated because its group rivals scored more goals.

The teams were level 0-0 at halftime but the African team played impressively throughout, creating a number of scoring opportunities with quick interplay.

Goalkeeper Thomas N'Kono had only a handful of saves to make as Argentina struggled on attack throughout the 90 minutes.

See page 7 for full story

Welcome to the swimming pool & terrace
Middle East Hotel

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University graduation ceremonies begin

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday attends the graduation of a new batch of students from the University of Jordan. The King will deliver certificates to the 515 higher studies graduates at a special ceremony.

University President Mahmoud Al Samra will present the university degrees to students graduating with bachelor degrees in arts and law Tuesday, while students of economy, administrative sciences, Sharia (Islamic jurisprudence) will receive their degrees on Wednesday.

Graduates from the medical, engineering and technology faculties will be awarded their certificates in another ceremony which will be held June 16, while stu-

dents graduating from the faculties of agriculture and science will be receiving their certificates on June 17.

The number of university graduates this year totalled 3,912, divided among the various faculties. Graduates from the Faculty of Arts number 593, while those graduating from the Faculty of Law are 130, and 450 from the Economy and Administrative Sciences Faculty.

The number of graduates from the Sharia Faculty is 224 and the number of graduates from the Education Faculty is 624, while the number of those graduating from the Faculty of Medicine is 329, engineering and technology 307, the Agriculture Faculty, 236, and sciences 354.

Tawjih examinations set to begin June 12

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education is making preparations for the second session of the general secondary school certificate examination (tawjih) which begins June 12, according to an announcement by Dr. Mohammad Sayel Obaidat, director of examinations and evaluation at the ministry.

He said that the second session of examinations, which would last until June 25, will also be taken by students in Tuna who follow the Jordanian educational system.

A total of 66,302 students who were registered for the first term examination last January are expected to sit for the second session, Sayel said in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

He said that 857 halls would be made ready for the students who sit for examinations in the literature, science, commerce agriculture, industry, nursing and hotel management streams.

Sayel said 9,000 teachers have

been assigned the task of supervising the examinations. According to current regulations, a combination of the results of the two sessions of tawjih will make up the final result. The Ministry of Education plans to scrap the present examination system in three years.

A ministry statement said last December that as of the 1993-4 scholastic year, tawjih students will be sitting for only one examination session at the end of the school year.

The plan, the ministry said, will be implemented in the 1987-88 academic conference's resolutions which also provided for a set of modernisation programmes to overhaul the education system in the Kingdom.

Ministry officials expect that evaluation of the students' examinations will be completed before the end of July, well before the reopening of universities and community colleges for the 1990-1 academic year.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Jbour, Qarat families

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Thursday delegated his advisor for tribal affairs Sharif Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah to convey condolences to Al Jbour tribes over the death of Sheikh Basim Ben Kharabah Al Jbour. The King also delegated the assistant of chief of protocol, Abdillah Al Sirhani, to convey his condolences to Qarat family over the death of the mother of Mohammad Rashid Qarat, the Royal Palace telecommunication officer.

Hot weather conditions until Sunday

AMMAN (Petra) — The country will continue to be affected by hot weather conditions until Sunday evening and temperatures will drop gradually from then, according to the Meteorology Department. The department attributed the current weather condition to a hot air mass coming from India through the Arab Peninsula. The hot mass caused a high increase in temperature which reached 38 in Amman Thursday, thus exceeding average annual temperature during the season.

TCC delegation returns from Syria

AMMAN (Petra) — Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) Director General Mohammad Shahid Ismail and an accompanying delegation returned home Thursday at the end of a several day visit to Syria where they attended a meeting of the Joint Jordanian-Syrian Sub-committee on Telecommunications. The committee adopted a number of decisions and recommendations designed to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of telecommunications. Ismail and Syrian Communications Minister Mohammad Mirad Al Kirwiti, held a meeting Thursday morning and reviewed the outcome of the sub-committee's meetings.

Sakhra mayor appointed

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet has approved the appointment of Abdul Karim Mohammad Al Momani as mayor of Sakhra in Ajloun district.

Gammò named acting awqaf minister

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued appointing Sheikh Abdul Baqi Gammò, minister of state for parliamentary affairs, as acting awqaf and Islamic affairs minister during the absence of Ali Al Faqir who is on an official mission outside the country.

ATF team to visit Morocco

AMMAN (Petra) — A 20-member delegation from the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) starts a visit to Morocco June 17 in response to an invitation by the Moroccan Ministry of Youth. An ATF source said that the visit comes as part of the forum's plan to promote better understanding and friendship among Arab youth.

Police foil smuggling attempts

AMMAN (J.T.) — Customs authorities last month foiled several attempts to smuggle hashish, gold and foreign made cigarettes into the Kingdom according to customs department officials. They said that customs patrol teams in May seized 20.38 kilograms of hashish and 65 kilograms of gold concealed in a private car in the course of entering Jordan. They said other teams seized 2,063 cartons of foreign cigarettes and unspecified amounts of electrical appliances and hand watches.

24 summer schools for secondary level

AMMAN (Petra) — A total of 25 summer schools will be opened for students in the secondary level within the Greater Amman region, according to an announcement by the Department of Education in Amman region. Students have been informed about the benefits of the summer classes, which are offered free of charge, and many have registered for them, according to the acting director of the department, Abdul Latif Al Sheikh. Summer classes are being organised in the government schools within Amman and only a JD 10 registration fee will be charged from each student for the entire duration of the course. The classes begin July 1 and will last for a whole month. Apart from academic courses students are also to be given sports lessons, and training in the use of computers, typing, weaving, dressmaking, arts and music.

Islamists tipped to put up strong showing in Ruseifeh

By Mariam M. Shashin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Just above 50 per cent of the registered voters in Ruseifeh had cast their votes in the municipal council elections after a second day of voting came to an end Friday. Local observers predicted that at least half of the nine seats on the council would go to organised Islamists.

The balloting process in Ruseifeh was extended by 24 hours Thursday evening because of a low voter turnout in the first municipal elections held in this northeastern town in seven years.

Only 41 per cent of the registered voters had voted by Thursday evening, and Zarqa Governor Mohammad Hussein Shobaki decided to extend the voting period in order to give those who had no chance to vote. Thursday was an official workday and most of Ruseifeh male populace work till 4 p.m. in the afternoon, Shobaki pointed out.

According to municipal officials, female voters had a relatively high turnout Thursday, but by Friday evening, when the ballot boxes closed, only 4,858 out of an estimated 11,041 female voters had cast their ballots. In contrast, the male voter turnout was said to be relatively low Thursday, but the final showed that 6,812 out

of 12,114 male registered voters had cast their ballots by Friday evening.

In a municipality which has 20,000 registered Palestinian refugees a polarisation of local elections was expected by local officials who said Thursday's and Friday's elections went up of mostly political liberals and centrists.

The "National Reform Bloc" Subri Farajia, Ahmad Mbeideen, Mahfouz Abu Hanan, Aret Al Kaddoum, Zahair Awida, Dr. Hikmat Freihat, and Hamed Al Kutub. This bloc is considered to represent mostly pan-Arab nationalism and an array of leftist ideologies.

Fourty-one candidates running on the five blocs and three independents were aiming to lure voters to the polls for the past month to decide on who will fill the municipal council.

Almost each bloc is a combination of people who are affiliated with different political currents no individual bloc was expected to claim a landslide victory. First results were expected sometime after midnight Friday.

"The Islamists are expected to claim a majority as in many other municipal elections across Jordan but we don't expect them to take the council by storm," one longtime observer said.

The following are the names of the candidates and their blocs:

The "Labour Bloc" Musa Saad, Ali Mirza, Abdul Rahim Ghadeer, Mahmoud Abdul Talal Azie and Issa Grenawi.

CAEU to request Kuwait to reconsider decision

CAIRO (Petra) — The Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) has decided to send a letter to Kuwait, asking it to reconsider its decision to withdraw from the council.

Ministry officials expect that evaluation of the students' examinations will be completed before the end of July, well before the reopening of universities and community colleges for the 1990-1 academic year.

RJ posts slight profit

(Continued from page 1)

JD 236.5 million whereas the airline's bank deposits, including receivables, amount to JD 107.5 million, leaving an overall debt of JD 129 million," Ghandour had said.

Abu Ghazaleh refused to comment on the discrepancy in the figures or the accounting practices used by the former management. "While the airline showed a JD 1.7 million in profits in 1987, using the new accounting regulations there would be a JD 21 million loss for the same year," he said.

Abu Ghazaleh explained that the new accounting system recognised dead loans that "could never be recovered" and wrote them off and replaced the "operational lease" method, in effect during 1987, with the "capital lease" method.

According to the financial report, which is not officially released yet, pending approval by the board of directors and the Council of Ministers, "the effect of adopting the new accounting method was an increase in assets of JD 192,314,908 and an increase in liabilities of JD 181,642,627," while the cumulative effect on the 1988 results can be seen a further loss of JD 3,066,986."

Although the airline's decree stipulates that the government is committed to cover any losses incurred by the corporation, the RJ official, who insisted on anonymity, said that the government is not "at all likely" to cover the losses.

Official sources said the government would not cover the 1988 losses and that it expected the airline "to manage on its own." When the Bedouin government took office in early December, the airline's newly appointed management sought a government guarantee for a \$100 million loan," said a government official, who insisted on anonymity. "The government then urged the airline to manage the loan itself and the airline did," he said.

Abu Ghazaleh stressed that RJ's creditworthiness remained sound as evidenced by the airline's ability to obtain financing for the leasing for

Shamir announces coalition

(Continued from page 1)

Jewish people and an inseparable part of national security," the document said.

Shamir said he had not yet finalised cabinet posts but sources in his Likud party said a troika of hardliners — David Levy, Ariel Sharon and Yitzhak Modai

would receive the key ministries of foreign affairs, housing and finance.

Dubbed the "constraints ministers," the three forced Shamir last July to accept hardline restrictions on his initiative for Palestinian elections.

While the new government's policy guidelines reaffirmed the initiative, they also added one key constraint — ruling out Palestinian elections or self-rule in Arab Jerusalem.

There was no mention of Secretary of State James Baker's proposals for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo. Likud Minister Ehud Olmert said there was no reason for the new cabinet to reconsider its rejection of the plan.

Here are some of the names expected to appear in Israel's new cabinet, according to Israel army radio Friday.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

* Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharra, Mohammad Assad and Hasni Khaza'leh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.

* Art exhibition by Rafiq Al Laihan at the Royal Culture Centre.

FILM

* German film entitled "Geboren 1949" (Born 1949) at the Goethe Institute — 8:30 p.m.

TURKISH FILM WEEK

* Feature film entitled "Hunting Time" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:30 p.m.

Jordan Times
Tel: 667171-6



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Thursday presents certificates to Amman Baccalaureate School (Petra photo)

ABS holds graduation ceremony

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Al Hassan Thursday attended a ceremony for the graduation of the Amman Baccalaureate School and distributed certificates and awards to its 50 graduates.

The three independent candidates were Akil Shukrati, Akram Tala'i and Issa Grenawi.

of the coming century, he said, will be facing conditions and circumstances totally different from those of their fathers in the present century.

The school principal and graduates also addressed the gathering.

Defendant in Zarqa tribe murder case pleads mental instability

By Joumana Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A youth who has confessed in court to have committed a triple murder in Zarqa in October last year is maintaining a plea of mental derangement at the time of the crime, according to legal sources.

The defendant, 23-year-old K.H. who is accused of killing his father, step-mother and a three-year-old half brother, has already been examined and certified normal by the mental hospital, but the defence is now seeking the court to have a panel of specialised psychiatrists to examine him further, the sources said.

In order to reverse the trend of operating deficits, especially after the government's insistence on self-reliance by the airline, the management implemented an austerity plan — a "route network consolidation strategy" — which involved cancellation of flights on certain routes and cutbacks on others as well as a 20 per cent cut in current expenditure.

The strategy, initiated in the third quarter of 1989 and maintained since then, "allowed operating expenditure to grow at a far slower rate than operating revenue resulting in a minor surplus in 1989 and a substantial operating profit for 1990," according to the report.

Abu Ghazaleh said the airline expected to post a slight profit during 1990 but would not give an anticipated figure.

The report said that "a substantial improvement in the net surplus for 1990 is projected with capital gains on the sale of excess flight equipment which was made possible by the implementation of the route network consolidation strategy adopted by the airline."

Abu Ghazaleh said he had called off plans for a press conference to announce the RJ situation. He said he was expected to go before the Lower House of Parliament Finance Committee to present a briefing on the situation and might hold a news conference after that.

his father's house with the intention of stealing money on Oct. 10, 1989, the sources said.

The defence is trying to establish that the defendant was mentally unstable at the time of the killings and therefore cannot be held responsible for his actions," said a source close to the case. "The mental hospital has certified him sane, but the defence is pushing for further examinations to establish that he had psychopathic tendencies," said the source speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity.

According to court documents, including a confession from K.H., the defendant, who was accompanied by a 17-year-old friend, was caught in the act of stealing by his father. A heated argument ensued and the defendant repeatedly stabbed his father with a knife, his friend ran away in panic. The defendant's step-mother pleaded him not to kill her but he chased her into the bedroom and stabbed her to death, according to the documents.

Then the defendant also kil-

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Opinion & Analysis

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Jordan Times

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'Crazies' in charge!

ISRAELI Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's "right-wing crazies" government is the clearest message yet that Israel is not yet ready or interested in peace with its neighbours. This conclusion is fortified by the fact that Shamir's chosen partners in the government seek, inter alia, to flood the occupied Arab territories with Jewish emigrants and toughen measures to quash the Palestinian intifada. And with Ariel Sharon at the helm of the ministry charged with settling Jewish immigrants, there is no other way to interpret the make-up of Shamir's projected government except as a rebuff to all nations that seek to prevent the Jewish immigration issue from spreading into an unstoppable and deadly cancer in the whole area.

Having opted for a right-of-the-right government in the wake of the Baghdad Arab summit, the Israelis have in effect sent a signal to the Arab capitals that Arab decisions bear no impact on their policies. Likewise the make-up of the new Israeli coalition is a resounding rebuff to Washington which was hoping that any new government would endorse U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan for peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian side. It would be interesting to watch what the U.S. government intends to do about the new course in Israeli politics, if it has intentions to do anything at all.

The least that the Arab side would expect from the U.S. under the new circumstances is recognition that its appeasement policy towards Tel Aviv has been bankrupt on every count. Uppermost on the minds of the Arab side which has invested heavily in U.S. brokering peace in the Middle East conflict is whether Washington would continue to be satisfied with the expression of pious remarks about peace in the area or it would rise up to the challenge and speak and act more forcefully and effectively about at least its own peace plans. For how long is the U.S. going to tolerate the torpedoing of one U.S. peace plan after the other by its so-called friend and strategic ally at a time when it is capable of implementing such plans by a demonstration of a more genuine endorsement of its own initiative? Washington owes it to the Arab World to translate, for once, its declared aims into deeds. Is it possible that the U.S. is capable of producing only one Dwight Eisenhower in a hundred or a thousand years? We would like think not.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I welcomed Iran's decision to respond favourably to Iraq's call for direct peace negotiations. The paper said an Iran-Iraq summit will deal a devastating blow to the enemies of the Arab and Islamic nations. Hostile forces have over the past years gained a great deal, thanks to the continued hostility between Iraq and Iran and throughout the eight years of war, hostile forces have benefited from conspiring against this nation in different ways, it said. Indeed, these forces have been seeking to impede any solution to the Gulf conflict and any improvement of relations between the Arabs and Iran, the paper said. The fast-moving developments on the international scene and the formation of various economic blocs worldwide have prompted Iran and Iraq to move closer to each other not only to thwart enemy plots but also to launch close cooperation for safeguarding common interests, the paper added. It took a great deal of courage on the part of the Iranian and Iraqi leaderships to decide on this very important step after eight years of conflict, said the paper. It hoped that the two countries will now find a solid ground on which to build their future fruitful relations.

A columnist in Al Ra'i said Iran seems to be in a very comfortable situation, enough to allow it to open serious negotiations with Iraq to end the Gulf conflict and reach permanent peace. Rafsanjani, the Iranian president, has mustered enough courage following the supremacy of the moderate factions in Tehran to announce at a press conference that his country will respond to Iraq's call for direct negotiations, Mahmoud Al Rimawi said. Whether it was the moderate factions in Iran which prompted Rafsanjani to take this step or pressure from the world community and the United Nations or even Arab mediation, one has to admit that the positive Iranian move was mainly prompted by Iraq's position and its president's determination to reach a final settlement with Iran, Rimawi wrote. Indeed, one has also to admit that Iran stands to gain from the peace situation, which is bound to improve its relations with the Arab countries so that it can turn its attention to handling internal issues and improving national economy, he wrote. Iran's conflict with Iraq had been costly, and it sapped the nation's strength, and the decision to reconsider Tehran's position vis-a-vis Iraq was indeed a brave move, responding to a similar brave overture on the part of Iraq, the writer noted. He said that it is time that both Iran and its neighbouring Arab and Islamic countries pooled their resources to deal with the common Zionist enemy and confront aggression on any Arab or Islamic country.

Al Dastour commented on Israel's angry reaction to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's warning that unless Israel took serious action to prevent Soviet Jewish immigrants from settling in occupied Arab lands, the Soviet Union would reconsider its decision of allowing free emigration of Soviet Jews. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir triggered the outcry which was echoed in the United States by the Zionist lobby which in turn unleashed a furious attack on Gorbachev and is now gearing for a new offensive to ensure that the Jewish immigrants will continue to flow uninterrupted into occupied Palestine, the paper said. Indeed the Zionist movement has already started a wide scale campaign in Washington aimed at forcing the U.S. administration to exercise a form of blackmail on Moscow to make it succumb to Israel's desires, the paper said. The Zionist movement hopes to enlist Washington's threat to Moscow that no trade agreement will be implemented unless Moscow relented and allowed the Jews to leave for Palestine, the paper said. The paper praised Moscow's initial position in this matter and expressed hope that Gorbachev will adhere to his statement and translate his words into deeds.

VIEW FROM AMMAN

Arab psyche came forth in Baghdad

By Kamel S. Abu Jaber

ON WEDNESDAY afternoon, May 30, 1990 I sat and watched with great interest and fascination the final session of the Arab summit meeting in Baghdad. I, like millions of other television watchers throughout the Arab World and beyond, were treated to a rare glimpse of how the Arab leaders treat each other. The atmosphere was anything but formal. The leaders who spoke, with the exception of the ruler of Kuwait, spoke, extemporaneously. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, in his colourful traditional costume, looked pleased with himself, and at ease with his colleagues. His talk seemed to come from somewhere in the Arab psyche: simple, uncomplicated and direct. On several occasions he drew laughter from the other Arab leaders; and though what he said was extremely serious he stated it in the most natural and straightforward way.

If the atmosphere revealed anything it was a spirit of comradeship and congeniality. Most likely it was brought about by long acquaintance not only with each other, but with the issues they were dealing with. The anecdotes told by some of the leaders, Saddam Hussein, Qadhafi and some of the others, emphasised the cultural unity of the Arab World above all else. And though they displayed a variety of costumes, adding an exotic colour to the occasion, these men understood each other. Why is it that this cultural unity that binds every Arab to every other Arab, has not succeeded in translating itself into the realm of politics? "only barrels" on "our borders" placed by the colonial powers, "separate us", declared the Libyan leader. The why are we still separated? The Italians have left! If so why not remove the barrels? why not meet on a regular basis? why

not draw up a grand plan; a strategy that truly links the national to the super Arab national security? why are we not able to operate as if we truly belong to the same nation? why are there rich and poor Arabs?

On the level of oral expression and verbalisation the leaders, like most of their subjects, or citizens, seem not only articulate but also deeply aware of the issues at hand, and the dangers lurking ahead. Yet, meeting after meeting have been held, and the entire Arab World seems to be continuing in not only sliding backwards, but down wards as well. Something is definitely wrong.

Everyone knows that, yet no one seems to have either ability or the will to do anything about it. Is it our oral tradition? Our fascination with the word and our penchant to think that if only we say something it will

occur? Is that why we are excellent not only in poetry but in prose as well, but continue to shun the complications of the scientific method?

As I watched I became deeply aware that our leaders are after all made of the same material of their people. Cloth of the same cloth. Uncomplicated, frank, jovial and open hearted. And though the atmosphere was tense and the issues at hand momentous, the leaders, like their peoples, created moments of light heartedness. Human beings speaking to other human beings. Folks, family men bewildered by the ruthless hatred and efficiency facing them...

May be that is the ultimate power that we possess: our candid and uncomplicated manner of addressing even the most dangerous issues of our lives. Saddam put it most simply when he stated that we can

accommodate the Jews while Qadhafi remarked that if the Israelis have the "atomic" we have the "population" bomb.

As simple as that!

The conference was initially convened to consider Soviet Jewish immigration and the imminent and strategic danger that this entails. Here, like in most other matters. The summit considered, the words were strong on the local level. Yet the summit even failed to agree on the wording of a letter to be sent to the Superpowers summit, to meet one day after the conclusion of the Baghdad summit. What has been accomplished? Has anything been solved? We still have the matter of Jewish immigration as well as the cruel treatment Israel is meting to the Yishuv. How can we convince Israel that it must realise that peace is better than war? How can we face the next few years that promise to be more cruel and much gloomier and disarray.

Had the times been more relaxed and the nation not so much in danger, we could afford to live a day at a time. Our continued lack of a vision of the future, and plan for it, is one of the most important elements in the strength of our enemies. Enemies that want us to remain disunited, distracted and disarray.

Time is against Gorbachev

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Mikhail Gorbachev pleaded for time during the Washington summit — to reform the Soviet economy, to reform its federation to expand the rights of increasingly restive republics who are demanding more autonomy if not, like Lithuania, outright independence.

"A full federation is something that we are in vital need of (and) in the next few days there's to be a federation council meeting convened to consider specific steps, dates and ways of resolving this particular problem in specific, concrete terms," he said.

This process may result in "different levels of federative ties" among the Soviet Union's 15 republics, he predicted.

But if any republic insists on outright secession, it must follow the constitutional process and this is likely to take six or seven years, Gorbachev said.

He specifically mentioned Lithuania, against whom Moscow imposed economic sanctions as penalty for declaring independence.

Four months ago, when independence movements were less advanced, a senior U.S. official told Reuters he believed Gorbachev could yet devise a formula to keep the Soviet Union together — except maybe for the Baltics.

The Baltics, claimed by Moscow in a 1940 Hitler-Stalin pact, are seen by many in the West as likely to eventually succeed in breaking away regardless of what Gorbachev does.

As for creating a new system that could appease other republics and prevent them from also seceding, "that was easier to accomplish several months ago."

Formerly prosperous nation into one of the world's poorest. The protests culminated in massive, nationwide demonstrations by civil servants, professionals, Buddhist monks and some military personnel.

The protesters were already celebrating what they said was the triumph of peaceful revolution.

But as was to happen the following year in China, the short-lived triumph turned to bloodshed when the military decided enough was enough. Several thousand people were gunned down by troops in what was by most evidence a far bloodier suppression of democracy than in Beijing.

Saw Maung then declared martial law and arrested thousands of protesters. But he also called for general elections and allowed political parties to form, albeit within strict controls.

This time around, Burmese confined their protests to the polls.

Their overwhelming support for the New Democracy League left no doubt about their thirst for both political and economic change.

"I'm so happy to see those old cronies who devastated the economy leave the scene," said a retired civil servant.

"We have suffered a lot under the military," said a younger man. "I'm happy that now we will have good leaders."

If the military allows it, the leaders will come from the league, composed of Suu Kyi's more radical followers hungry for revenge, as well as moderate, older leaders favouring a cautious approach in dealing with the junta.

"Our first priority is to build a strong government so that people will be comfortable," said one league official. "We want to sow the seeds for democracy so that our country will never again be ruled by arms."

This is not the first effort at democracy in modern Burmese history. After independence from Britain in 1962, a parliamentary democracy was established.

But factionalism, rebellions by ethnic groups, and other problems plagued the fledgling experiment. The army stepped in on several occasions and finally seized power in the 1962 coup led by Ne Win.

Ne Win retired in 1988, and some say his withdrawal from the political arena contributed to the election triumph of the league for democracy. Others believe he is still pulling strings behind the scenes.

He implored for understanding.

For one thing, he said his government was working on reforming its federation to expand the rights of increasingly restive republics who are demanding more autonomy if not, like Lithuania, outright independence.

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said Soviet expert Dimitri Simes of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"A confederation (formula) would have to be looser today and with every day, it is becoming more difficult to devise," he told Reuters.

With Gorbachev's chief political rival, Boris Yeltsin, now president of the Russian republic, even that central core of the Soviet Union is beginning to demand greater sovereignty.

Yeltsin recently threatened to sign a trade pact with Lithuania, and Gorbachev Sunday sharply criticised him as likely to complicate efforts to restructure Soviet society.

Gorbachev "seems to have a blind spot" on independence movements "and is now faced with the dilemma of people wanting more than he wants to give

them," Madeleine Albright, president of the Centre for National Peace, told Reuters.

Washington should want a peaceful solution to the ethnic and political unrest. A breakup in the Soviet Union could bring "massive instability" to a key region, she said.

The fear that chaos could be unleashed may be behind Bush's handling of Lithuania with Gorbachev. Bush reiterated his support for Yeltsin.

On the economy, American critics, including congressmen who met with Gorbachev, urged further moves towards a market system.

The Soviet leader repeatedly resisted this, saying his country, in the midst of dramatic change, had to move slowly to create a

market structure from scratch.

More compellingly, he argued "people are scared" by the changes wrought, including higher prices. But he insisted nothing would stop the reforms.

Bush has made a strong point of wanting Gorbachev to succeed and the summit seemed designed to give him a boost.

But analysts like Simes say Washington is "making an inordinate investment" in Gorbachev while dismissing new leaders like Yeltsin.

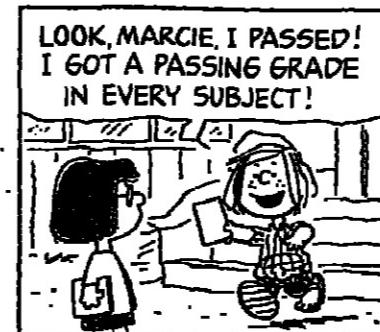
He and many others predict Gorbachev — sooner rather than later — will have to accept a coalition government in which power with Yeltsin and others must be shared.

Under such a scenario, Bush may find his welcome in Moscow at the next superpower summit somewhat less cordial, they say.

Andy Capp



Peanuts





Jordan does not have a real drug abuse problem but is used as a transit point for trafficking drugs into neighbouring countries.

Drugs — a cry from within

By Saeda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

JORDAN never really had a problem of drug abuse, according to officials who agree that the Kingdom had been and continues to be a transit point for drugs despite intensified efforts by security forces. They point to recent busts of several large drug consignments as an indication of the increased vigil by the Anti-Narcotics Bureau. However, there has been a gradual rise in the number of drug users in the Kingdom and experts say that while the situation is "very much" under control, close supervision is essential to prevent escalation of drug use by Jordanians.

Experts in the field of drug abuse in Jordan confirm that the increase in the number of Jordanians involved in smuggling, the entry of new and different kinds of drugs to Jordan as well as the increase in the number of addicts are only the symptoms of the secret crawling of an infectious disease, threatening the poor and the rich alike, the learned and the illiterate, the married and the single.

"If there is something to be done, it is our children that we must help from the enormous error that we have committed; to keep them away from the bad company that destroyed our lives and our future," says Z.M.R., a 35-year-old prisoner in Swaqa Prison who has been sentenced to five years for drug trafficking.

"I address my plea to all the authorities, to anyone concerned about his children and his family, to those who are on the edge of getting involved in the deteriorating business of drug trafficking or drug addiction... I say that because I have suffered, and it was a long and hard path to get over, and because my wife and my children, the most beloved to me, are the ones who have been the victims of my irrational behaviour."

"A prisoner convicted of drug trafficking

are the ones who have been the victims of my irrational behaviour."

Z.M.R. was tempted by a friend of his in Jordan to get some hashish for himself; a portion of three kilos of which 500 grammes were for himself. Before he was imprisoned, he was a sales manager in Saudi Arabia and a graduate from a marketing institute in West Germany. Yet now, he seems to prefer continued imprisonment to being set free.

"I do not want to get out. Where will I go? And how can I find my wife and my daughter again? I haven't seen them in four years, and what if they left the country and I am stuck here; you know that I am obliged to stay in the country without a passport," he said, trying to suppress his tears.

Along with his other colleagues who were imprisoned for related drug crimes in Swaqa and are estimated at 255 out of 1200 prisoners, many share the view that there are many more traffickers and addicts outside the prison who are not aware of the dangers of such a business and who may fall into the trap one day and suffer from the consequences.

"We cannot deny that the Jordanian security measures are very effective; says Sabri Rbeihat, a Major in the Public Security Department (PSD) and a criminologist. "But yet we don't really know the exact size and all the dimensions of the drug problem, and we are not equipped to deal with this kind of problem."

Research conducted by the National Committee for Anti-Narcotics, which is comprised of the Ministries of Health and Education, PSD as well as many other concerned public and private institutions, reveal that only ten per cent of the actual amount of smuggled drugs is seized.

According to official figures,

there are now 389 prisoners convicted of drug related charges in all Jordanian prisons. The number of people arrested and consequently arrested for drug related crimes has risen from 97 in 1980, of whom 57 are Jordanians, to 345 in the year 1989, including 152 Jordanians, according to PSD statistics. Also, the number of drug-related court cases soared from 33 cases in 1980 to 115 in 1989.

For Psychological Rehabilitation, "most patients who took hard drugs started taking them abroad, and they shifted to tranquilizers or treatment when they come back."

"At present, this problem is getting more and more dangerous and the use of heroin is spreading extensively in the neighbouring Arab countries," Dr. Sarhan said. He added that this phenomenon "constitutes a problem."

"The introduction of drugs into Jordan is mainly due to the fact the Jordan is an open country, and to the high number of students studying abroad who come into contact with different types of drugs," explains Brigadier General Ghabel Al Zoubi, director to the Anti Narcotics Bureau.

A 26-year-old addict says that he took the drug for the first time when he was 18 years old while he was at college in the United States. "I met Jordanian and American friends who tempted me to try marijuana. Later on I became addicted to other types of drugs such as heroin, hashish and tranquilizers. It is not until I had many problems that I decided to try to give up the whole affair and I came back to Jordan."

According to Waleed Sarhan, a psychiatrist and Director of the Jordanian Soci-

ety for Psychological Rehabilitation, "most patients who took hard drugs started taking them abroad, and they shifted to tranquilizers or treatment when they come back."

"The report specified the reasons for their trial of drugs as follows:

Fourteen per cent tried them out of curiosity, six per cent to feel happy, five per cent to increase their sexual pleasure, four per cent take it to get rid of feelings of depression and sadness, three per cent to alleviate their feelings of anxiety and worry, one per cent to get rid of boredom, and 36 per cent for other reasons.

Yet, according to Dr. Saad

Al Mughrabi, in his book entitled "Hashish Addiction Phenomenon," various studies affirm that drugs usually have the opposite effect to what was intended by users generally and that the basic effect of drugs is a depressant one, and sometimes has the effect of reduction or elimination of sexual desire.

While hashish was the most used drug in Jordan, the committee pointed out that barbiturates like Valium are extensively abused despite a policy that bans their use without a prescription. However, there are no statistics on their use despite of the serious implications of its spread in the country.

Although young people are the most susceptible to drugs, the statistics of the national committee point out that 70 per cent of the addicts are married, probably indicating familial problems and worries faced after marriage. Also, while 32 per cent of the addicts are between the age of 21 and 30; statistics show that 42 per cent of drug users are between the age of 31 and 40.

Interestingly, among top of the users of drugs in Jordan are bus, truck and taxi drivers; they constitute 27 per cent of drug addicts, according to the national committee. Private businessmen constitute 26 per cent of users.

Most of the drugs addicts come from Amman or from the refugee camps; 406 addicts in the capital of 200 from Zarqa and the neighbouring camps; 350 from Irbid and the neighbouring camps while 50 are from Salt and 58 from Aqaba, five from Karak and ten from Madaba, statistics show.

Yet, despite all the implications that the Kingdom is ahead of a serious problem of drug abuse "Jordan is still considered as a transit point between countries of production in the north and countries of consumption," Dr. Rbeihat said.

Relations between the two countries have plummeted since June last year, when some of China's most wanted dissidents streamed to France and were given safe-haven.

No sex, we play football

By William C. Hilday
Associated Press Writer

ROME — To win the World Cup, some soccer coaches will go to any lengths — even banning their players from making love in the land of amore.

This year's World Cup, a monthlong tournament involving 24 teams, is being played in Italy, the home of Romeo and Juliet, a country known for romantic songs, a place that to many people is synonymous with love.

So, for some Italians and soccer players, it seems ironic — even scandalous — that Italian soccer coach Azeglio Vicini has asked his players to swear off sex during the world Cup.

But to others, Vicini's prohibition didn't seem unusual because, after all, soccer-crazy Italy is trying to win an unprecedented fourth World Cup, arguably an in-depth story about it and Italian sportswriters regularly ask about it during news conferences.

Vicini's announcement, the issue of sex in soccer — whether or not to have "relations" before and during the World Cup — has become almost as hotly debated as on-the-field techniques.

The Brazilian team reacted with horror to Vicini's proposal, an Italian men's magazine wrote an in-depth story about it and Italian sportswriters regularly ask about it during news conferences.

"You're asking me for a confession? After a night of love, I feel much stronger on the field," Bergomi told the monthly magazine.

Professor Giovanni Caletti, identified by the magazine as an expert on sexuality, also told Gente Mese that the ban would disrupt the players' normal routine.

"When I think of the players at their training camp without their wives," he said, "the idea of beasts in cages comes to mind."

U.S. soccer Coach Bob Gansler, whose team doesn't have a policy on sex, quickly found out how much interest there is in the issue when he met with Italian sportswriters in Tirrenia.

"Sex is important for Americans, too. That's why there are 250 million of us," Gansler said.

"There have been many studies in this field and as far as I know everything I've seen has been inconclusive."

"One reporter wasn't satisfied.

"But at the level of theory, spiritually, do you feel closer to those who think sex is good or are you closer to the other point of view?"

"Spiritually," Gansler said. "I feel closer to my wife."

Painter's wife pays price for French-Chinese strain

By Claire Rosenberg
Reuter

PARIS — Strained relations between China and France — which has extended a warm welcome to dissident Chinese exiles in the past year — have caused nothing but heartache to one Frenchwoman.

She is the wife of a Chinese painter who diplomats say could face up to 15 years in jail.

"It's all because of our marriage, because he has a French wife," Agnes Gaudu, a journalist and writer, said in interview.

Seven days after their marriage, she said, her husband Wang Du was arrested at Canton University while applying for a passport.

She said he was eventually charged with counter-revolutionary incitement and propaganda, one of the heaviest charges opponents of the government can face. If found guilty, he could be sentenced to up to 15 years in jail or hard labour.

According to diplomatic sources, it was because of this that a high-level visit to Beijing aimed at improving the strained ties between China and France was cancelled in April.

Relations between the two countries have plummeted since June last year, when some of China's most wanted dissidents streamed to France and were given safe-haven.

But at no time was he a dissident leader, she added.

In the summer of 1989, he filled out the obligatory report the Chinese had to write on their activities during the "Peking spring" but thought that was

rule, as long as I don't catch them," says coach Carlos Bilardo.

In announcing his ban on sex in early May, the Italian Coach, Vicini, said, "chastity of players prior and during a major competition has been a long-debated, but unsolved problem."

During the world Cup, however, Vicini said the players would be too busy training, concentrating on strategy and studying their opponents to spend time with their wives or girlfriends.

Since Vicini's announcement, the issue of sex in soccer — whether or not to have "relations" before and during the World Cup — has become almost as hotly debated as on-the-field techniques.

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come that," said a grinning Ruben Sosa, Uruguay's top offensive weapon. "But, by the way, what is sex?"

After Vicini announced his ban, the Italian men's magazine, Gente Mese, interviewed players and their wives. Most said they didn't mind the ban, but team Captain Giuseppe Bergomi confided that he wasn't certain it would improve the team's play.

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His work unit, Canton's Polytechnic University, granted him permission to marry Gaudu and supplied the necessary papers.

But on Sept. 27, he was arrested, she said.

Gaudu said that after weeks spent harassing officers and staff in Canton police stations to find out why he was being held and where, she was told Wang Du was under investigation, suspected of "taking part in the turmoil."

The charges brought against him, however, were far more serious.

"It was the stiffer possible charge they could have laid," Gaudu said. "Prominent dissidents in comparison have faced lesser charges or have even been released. Wang Du is being considered as a special case."

Gaudu had notified the French authorities immediately of his detention. After seven months they announced she had been granted the right to a visit.

Wang Du was depressed and in poor health, she said, his face blotched and bloated from kidney trouble for which he had been given no medical treatment.

It was during that visit, a 20-minute encounter on April 23 under tight police surveillance, that Gaudu was informed Wang Du had been officially charged.

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STUDIO HAIG</h3

E. Europe to dominate central bankers meeting

ZURICH (R) — Economic and political upheaval in Eastern Europe and the possible risks for the West are likely to dominate discussion when central bankers from around the world gather in Switzerland this weekend.

But bankers and economists say participants at Monday's annual meeting of the Bank of International Settlements (BIS) in Basle will also review the world's inflation and interest rates.

"Generally the view is that there has to be continuing efforts to curb global inflation," said Robert Hornats, vice-chairman of U.S. investment bank Goldman Sachs and Company and a former U.S. State Department official.

Although it is not a policy-making forum, the meeting presents a useful opportunity to review issues in the light of last week's Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) ministerial meeting in Paris and ahead of the July 9 to 11 summit of Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial nations in Houston, Texas.

It also takes place three weeks before East and West Germany merge their economies in a step which some economists fear could be inflationary.

"German monetary union will be top of the agenda at Basle," said one senior European central bank economist.

The head of West Germany's Bundesbank, K. u. Otto Poehl, has said the German linkup will not entail higher inflation.

But fears that the conversion of near-worthless East German savings into West German marks will unleash an inflationary consumer spending spree have helped depress the mark this year.

Another major concern will probably be the Soviet Union. Its economy is in trouble and it has arrears of more than \$2 billion on payments to Western suppliers.

The Soviet Union does not belong to the BIS, but the state bank Gosbank is invited to the annual meeting each year, and economists say its representative this time is bound to be questioned closely by Western bankers.

The fear is that if the Soviet economy plunges into chaos, this would threaten reform throughout Eastern Europe, disrupt world trade as payments delays mount, and cause turmoil in foreign exchanges, economists believe.

COCOM eases restrictions on high technology exports

PARIS (AP) — Officials from 17 Western nations agreed Thursday to lift export restrictions on a multitude of high technology products and opened the way for preferential treatment for East European nations previously denied access to Western technology.

The Coordination Committee for Multilateral Export Controls — known as COCOM — agreed to delete 30 of 116 items on its restricted list effective July 1. U.S. officials said, making them available to all nations, including the Soviet Union.

It will seek to eliminate eight more items by mid-August and reduce restricted items to a "core list" of highly strategic items by the end of the year.

Delegates at the two-day meeting also agreed that East European countries which adopt "appropriate safeguards" could become eligible for preferential treatment.

"We believe these countries are future candidates for deletion from the COCOM list of proscribed destinations," a U.S. statement said.

Allan Wendt, senior State Department representative for

strategic technology policy, said that Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia would likely be the first to benefit from a preferred status with the group.

East Germany, pending full political unification with West Germany, will benefit from a "greatly reduced list" of export controls and improved licensing protections, officials said.

Members of the U.S. delegation estimated that in reducing COCOM's list of controlled items about \$45 billion of U.S. exports alone were eliminated from the licensing process.

Among the safeguards required for nations like Poland, Hungary or Czechoslovakia are guarantees the technology will be limited to civilian use and that there will be no intelligence cooperation with the Soviet Union aimed at diverting the technology in question, Wendt said.

The moves effectively modernise COCOM, which sets and oversees export restrictions on Western technology with possible military application. Then also give a boost to the effort by East European nations to modernise their economies.

The decisions "basically allow Eastern Europe to engage in modernisation across the board," said Dennis Kloske, under-secretary of commerce for export administration, a member of the

U.S. delegation.

Machine tools, telecommunications and computer equipment — which account for the bulk of COCOM cases — are the "bricks and mortar" of modern economic society, Kloske said.

The changes "will be a boon to export companies within COCOM," he added.

Members of the U.S. delegation

estimated that in reducing COCOM's list of controlled items about \$45 billion of U.S. exports alone were eliminated from the licensing process.

"We don't have time to await (the renewal of) confidence in the government's economic policies. We have to channel present resources to new investments, otherwise it may be too late," Cem Boyner, head of the Association of Turkish Industrialists and Businessmen (TUSIAD), told members in late May.

When it came to office seven years ago the Motherland govern-

Oman market booms but shares still scarce

DUBAI (R) — Oman's securities market exceeded all turnover targets in its first year but still has a long way to go to attract shareholders willing to sell their stocks, financial analysts say.

Sabbagh said the price earnings ratio of some firms — market price of stock as a multiple of per share earnings — are as high as six to one.

"The (big) shareowners have some price ideas in their minds and they want to realise these," a leading stock broker said.

The turnover target for the first year was set at six million riyals (\$15.6 million).

"This can be described as a boom and interest in the market is growing day by day," he told Reuters in a telephone interview from Muscat.

But bankers and financial analysts in Oman said market activity was thin because of the reluctance of most controlling owners in major companies to put their shares up for sale.

The exchange was set up to attract local savings into the economy and lure back funds invested abroad.

Bankers say there is a growing demand even from small investors to buy stocks but that supply is limited.

Some companies are so profitable that, apart from fears of losing control of their firms, current shareowners prefer to keep their holding rather than trade them.

Sabbagh said the price earnings ratio of some firms — market price of stock as a multiple of per share earnings — are as high as six to one.

"The (big) shareowners have some price ideas in their minds and they want to realise these," a leading stock broker said.

Seventy-four Omani companies are listed at the exchange with a total capitalisation of around 600 million riyals (\$15.6 billion), said Sabbagh.

He said the exchange would not start an index before trading in major stocks became regular each day.

"When we have 15 companies traded regularly every day we can issue an index," said Sabbagh. "Now we have three or four."

However one of the six brokerage houses allowed to deal on the floor of the exchange has been testing an index and plans to announce it on a regular basis soon, finan-

cial sources said.

The most actively traded stocks are in banks, insurance companies and some agro-industries, brokers said.

Although the number of small transactions is growing, the market sometimes witnesses on single big stock movement involving several hundred thousand shares, one broker said.

But shares of some companies listed at the exchange have never been traded, one analyst pointed out.

"This is not a healthy situation, the aim of the market is to have shares of all companies purchased and sold by a large number of people," he added.

But brokers and exchange officials are confident about the future as daily trading volume is said to be growing. To stimulate trading interest, the market has been holding evening sessions twice a week since last October.

Sabbagh said daily trading involved shares valued at 15,000 to 20,000 Omani riyals (\$39,000 to \$52,000) last year when the exchange opened.

It now sometimes sees shares change hands in one day of over 100,000 riyals (\$260,000).

JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1990

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY JUNE 9, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: If you need to take a chance today do it in the early morning for you will find that others are too wrapped up in their own affairs to really get a fix on exactly what you are up to.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You need to proceed cautiously in going after some goal that requires output of much time and effort but tonight the way to do so clear up very much.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Keep plugging away at outside vocational interests without making any stormy waves and then in evening you can go put on town for a fine time.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You would be sensible to investigate all phases of a different course than you have been pursuing today, while tonight a clear picture emerges.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Study carefully whatever promises you have made so you can carry them out just as agreed and in evening you have a fine time to do so.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A worldly matter comes to light you are unsure just how to handle so take under advisement today and tonight the situation clears up for you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You want to get your surroundings in better shape but time or energy is lacking during daytime but tonight you are able to do so with ease.

THE Daily Crossword



AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, June 7, 1990		Central Bank official rates		
Buy	Sell	French franc	117.6 118.3	
U.S. dollar	669.0	672.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	438.8 441.4
Pound Sterling	1229.5	1236.3	Dutch guilder	352.3 354.3
Deutschmark	396.4	398.8	Swiss crown	108.6 110.3
Swiss franc	465.4	468.2	Italian lire (for 100)	54.0 54.3
			Belgian franc (for 10)	192.8 194.0

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

One Sterling		1.6870/80	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1755/65	Canadian dollar	1.6935/40
	1.9040/50	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders
	1.4440/50	Swiss francs	Swiss francs
	34.79/84	Belgian francs	French francs
	5.7070/7100	Italian lire	Italian lire
	1244/1245	Japanese yen	Japanese yen
	153.20/30	Swedish crowns	Swedish crowns
	6.1165/1215	Norwegian crowns	Norwegian crowns
	6.5005/55	Danish crowns	Danish crowns
	6.4510/60	U.S. dollars	U.S. dollars
	353.65/354.15		

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

TOKYO — Volume tapered off after early volatility on settlement buying following Thursday's expiry of the June index futures. The Nikkei average lost 199.21 to close at 32,993.29.

SYDNEY — The market ended weaker but off its lows after arbitrageurs took advantage of discounted leading stocks in the afternoon. The All Ordinaries Index fell 5.1 points to 1504.1.

HONG KONG — Renewed buying by overseas institutions boosted the Hang Seng Index 29.03 to 3,174.33.

SINGAPORE — Prices rose over a broad front on renewed buying interest and some short-covering. The Straits Times Industrials gained 14.97 points to close at 1,568.07.

BOMBAY — Market closed.

FRANKFURT — The Dax index closed at 1,822.23, down 15.2 points. "There's no real activity at all," a trader commented. "Any transactions we do see are at mini-volume."

ZURICH — The All-Share SPI index added 0.9 point to 1,181.3, getting some help from a lower-than-expected Zurich inflation figure for May.

PARIS — Lower prices for bonds and financial futures and a decline on Wall Street sent the CAC-40 down 29.04 points to 2,021. "This market will slide on anything," a dealer said.

LONDON — Shares lost ground in quiet trade. The FTSE index closed at 2,366.6, down 11.8 points.

NEW YORK — The market is consolidating, but analysts say an up-trend could resume when selling lets up. At 1633 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were 10.44 lower at 2,886.89.

THE BETTER HALF

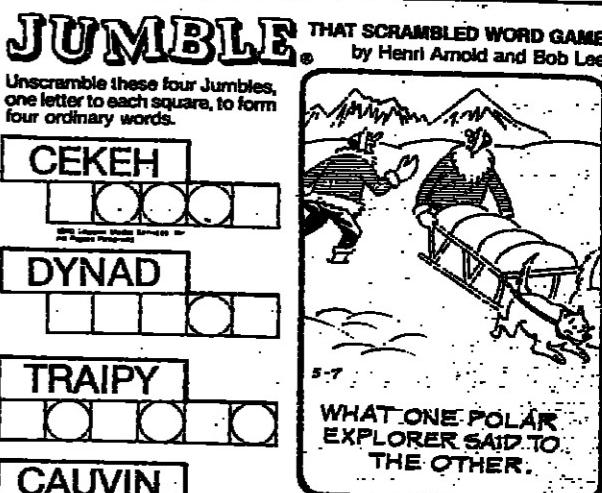
By Harris



"Maybe I should let someone else type my resume. I use too much White-Out."

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Programme for the World Cup soccer

(All kickoff times GMT):

First round

Group A (venues: Rome and Florence)

June 9 — Italy V Austria (Olympic stadium, Rome — 1900)
 June 10 — United States V Czechoslovakia (Comunale stadium, Florence — 1500)
 June 14 — Italy V United States (Olympic stadium, Rome — 1900)
 June 15 — Austria V Czechoslovakia (Comunale stadium, Florence — 1500)
 June 19 — Italy V Czechoslovakia (Olympic stadium, Rome — 1900)
 June 19 — Austria V United States (Comunale stadium, Florence — 1500)

Group B (Milan, Naples, Bari)

June 9 — Soviet Union V Romania (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Bari — 1500)
 June 13 — Argentina V Soviet Union (San Paolo Stadium, Naples 1900)
 June 14 — Cameroun V Romania (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Bari — 1900)
 June 18 — Argentina V Romania (San Paolo stadium, Naples — 1900)
 June 18 — Cameroun V Soviet Union (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Bari — 1900)

Group C (Turin, Genoa)

June 10 — Brazil V Sweden (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Turin — 1900)
 June 11 — Costa Rica V Scotland (Luigi Ferraris stadium, Genoa — 1500)
 June 16 — Brazil V Costa Rica (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Turin — 1500)
 June 16 — Sweden V Scotland (Luigi Ferraris stadium, Genoa — 1900)
 June 20 — Brazil V Scotland (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Turin — 1900)
 June 20 — Sweden V Costa Rica (Luigi Ferraris stadium, Genoa — 1900)

Group D (Milan, Bologna)

June 9 — United Arab Emirates V Colombia (Renato Dall'ara stadium, Bologna — 1900)
 June 10 — West Germany V Yugoslavia (Giuseppe Meazza stadium, Milan — 1900)
 June 14 — Yugoslavia V Colombia (Renato Dall'ara stadium, Bologna — 1500)
 June 15 — West Germany V United Arab Emirates (Giuseppe Meazza stadium, Milan — 1900)
 June 19 — West Germany V Colombia (Giuseppe Meazza stadium, Milan — 1500)
 June 19 — Yugoslavia V United Arab Emirates (Renato Dall'ara stadium, Bologna — 1500)

Group E (Verona, Udine)

June 12 — Belgium V South Korea (Bentegodi stadium, Verona — 1500)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIFF & TANIAH HIRSCH
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THIRD-HAND LOW!

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
 ♠ A 10 9
 V 7
 ♦ Q 0 8 3
 ♣ A 6 5 2
 WEST EAST
 ♠ 0 5 4 ♠ 1 8 3 2
 ♦ Q 1 5 ♦ A 9 8 2
 ♣ 7 4 0 1 8 6 5
 ♠ 10 9 8 4 ♠ 7 3
 SOUTH
 ♠ K 7 6
 V 10 4 3
 ♦ A 3 9 2
 ♣ K 1
 The bidding:
 North East South West
 1-0 Pass 2-NT Pass
 3-NT Pass 3-0 Pass
 3 NT Pass 4-0 Pass
 4-0 Pass 4 NT Pass
 5-0 Pass 6 NT Pass
 Pass Pass

Declarer led a heart from the table and misjudged by inserting the ten, losing to East's jack. Back came a low spade and when dummy's nine was played East followed low. Declarer had a choice of ways to go down after the nine held. Cashing the ace of spades would leave dummy with a spade loser; if declarer tried to find with the king of spades, the king of hearts would have to be conceded.

Unfortunately, when this hand was played in a rubber bridge game the bidding got out of hand. South's initial response is a strange action, as was North's three no trump, and South's four no trump was not intended as Blackwood, although it was taken as such. South misjudged in electing to play no trump rather than six diamonds.

West led a club, and declarer quickly ran nine tricks in the minor suits. Both defenders had discarding problems which they solved perfectly. West discarded the 5 6 Q of hearts and East 2 8 of hearts and 2 3 of spades. This was the position:

NORTH
 ♠ 10 9
 V 6
 ♦ 1 8 3 2
 ♣ 7 3

EAST
 ♠ A 5 4
 V J
 ♦ A 9
 ♣ 1 8 6 5

SOUTH
 ♠ K 7 6
 V 10 4 3
 ♦ A 3 9 2
 ♣ K 1

WEST
 ♠ 0 5 4
 V 1 5
 ♦ Q 1 8 2
 ♣ 7 4 0 1 8 6 5
 ♠ 10 9 8 4
 ♠ 7 3
 ♠ K 7 6
 V 10 4 3
 ♦ A 3 9 2
 ♣ K 1

Declarer led a heart from the table and misjudged by inserting the ten, losing to East's jack. Back came a low spade and when dummy's nine was played East followed low. Declarer had a choice of ways to go down after the nine held. Cashing the ace of spades would leave dummy with a spade loser; if declarer tried to find with the king of spades, the king of hearts would have to be conceded.

Note that if East covers the nine of spades, the contract makes. Declarer takes the king and plays for split honors by finessing the ten.

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June 13 — Uruguay V Spain (Frulli stadium, Udine — 1500)
 June 17 — Belgium V Uruguay (Bentegodi stadium, Verona — 1900)
 June 17 — South Korea V Spain (Frulli stadium, Udine — 1900)
 June 21 — Belgium V Spain (Bentegodi stadium, Verona — 1500)
 June 21 — South Korea V Uruguay (Frulli stadium, Udine — 1500)

Group F (Cagliari, Palermo)

June 11 — England V Ireland (Sant'elia stadium, Cagliari — 1900)
 June 12 — Netherlands V Egypt (La Favorita stadium, Palermo — 1900)
 June 16 — England V Netherlands (Sant'elia stadium, Cagliari — 1900)
 June 17 — Ireland V Egypt (La Favorita stadium, Palermo — 1500)
 June 21 — England V Egypt (Sant'elia stadium, Cagliari — 1900)
 June 21 — Ireland V Netherlands (La Favorita stadium, Palermo — 1900)

Second Round

June 23 — Winner group B V 3rd team group A/C/D (San Paolo stadium, Naples — 1500)
 June 23 — Runner-up group A V runner-up group C (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Bari — 1900)
 June 24 — Winner group C V 3rd team group B/E/F (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Turin — 1500)
 June 24 — Winner group D V 3rd team group B/E/F (Giuseppe Meazza stadium, Milan — 1900)
 June 25 — Runner-up group F V runner-up group B (Luigi Ferraris stadium, Genoa — 1500)
 June 25 — Winner group A V 3rd group C/D/E (Olympic stadium, Rome — 1900)
 June 26 — Winner group E V runner-up group D (Bentegodi stadium, Verona — 1500)
 June 26 — Winner group F V runner-up group E (Renato Dall'ara stadium, Bologna — 1900)

Quarter-finals

June 30 — Winner (Turin) V winner (Verona) (Comunale stadium, Florence — 1500)
 June 30 — Winner (Genoa) V winner (Rome) (Olympic stadium, Rome — 1900)
 July 1 — Winner (Bar) V winner (Milan) (Giuseppe Meazza stadium, Milan — 1500)
 July 1 — Winner (Naples) V winner (Bologna) (San Paolo stadium, Naples — 1900)

Semifinals

July 3 — Winner (Florence) V winner (Rome) (San Paolo stadium, Naples — 1800)
 July 4 — Winner (Milan) V winner (Naples) (Nuovo Comunale stadium, Turin — 1800)

Third-place match

July 7 — Nuovo Comunale stadium, Bari — 1800
 Final
 July 8 — Olympic stadium, Rome — 1800

After a dazzling World Cup opening ceremony

Cameroun shocks world champ

MILAN, Italy (AP) — A dazzling show of Italian fashions, song and dance preceded Friday's kickoff of the World Cup before a sellout crowd at Meazza stadium and a worldwide television audience.

The 25-minute extravaganza inside the towering high-tech stadium with a lattice-work roof featured 160 models wearing the creation of four noted Italian designers, three singers, 24 giant soccer balls and one giant helium balloon that looked like a soccer ball.

Four heads of state, attending the opener between defending champion Argentina and Cameroun, watched the ceremony from the stands.

To the sound of the World Cup anthem "Un Estate Italiana" (an Italian summer) sung by popular recording artists Edoardo Bennato and Gianna Nannini, 200 gymnasts came on to the pitch bearing the flags of the 24 finalists.

After the anthem, models wearing creations designed by Mila Schon, Valentino, Gianfranco Ferré and Ottavio Missoni paraded around the field. Each designer picked a colour and one of the four continents represented at the World Cup for the theme of his designs.

Schon picked yellow to represent Asia, Missoni chose black for Africa, Valentino represented America in red and Ferré green for Europe.

Verdi's trumpet march from "Aida" was played during the final stages of the ceremony over a television hookup from Milan's Scala theater. The theater's orchestra was conducted by Riccardo Muti.

At the end, the giant soccer ball balloon floated up from the field through the opening in the stadium roof while the 24 giant soccer balls on the field opened into daisies, releasing hundreds of coloured balloons.

The heads of state at the game were Italian President Francesco Cossiga, Argentine President Carlos Menem, Cameroun President Paul Biya and Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello.

The Argentines, a pale shadow of the side that won the World Cup in Mexico four years ago, were found wanting for speed by a side playing simple counter-attacking soccer.

Cameroun, with striker Benjamin Massing brilliant in fast breaks down the middle, wrought havoc in the Argentine defense while Maradona and Jorge Burruchaga failed to inspire up front. Cameroun drew their three matches in the 1982 World Cup

finals in Spain, where Argentina also crashed to a defeat by the same score to Belgium when defending their first title.

French referee Michel Vautron, following FIFA directives, was strict with Cameroun's often rough marking of Maradona and later Caniggia.

But the Argentines, who pride themselves on their close skills, will rue some lost chances through uncharacteristic errors in attacking positions.

The gangling Abel Balbo, whom coach Carlos Bilardo preferred to Caniggia as Maradona's attacking partner, twice tripped over the ball as he was picking up passes in scoring positions.

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Liberian troops reportedly retake key area from rebels

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — The Liberian government said Friday that its troops had recaptured key territory — the headquarters of the huge rubber plantation from which the international airport can be controlled.

Witnesses said fighting raged Friday at the U.S.-managed plantation.

President Samuel Doe's government, in a radio statement, said its 1st Infantry Battalion had crushed rebels holding the headquarters' complex at the Firestone rubber plantation 56 kilometres southeast of Monrovia. The troops also were in control of Robertsfield International Airport, which is on the plantation, the government said.

Rebel sources said their forces had withdrawn from the complex after government troops, backed by heavy artillery, approached. When the plantation was in their hands, insurgents controlled every major industrial concern in the West African country of 2.5 million people, except possibly the Bong Iron Mine. The mine has been cut off for days from Monrovia and was believed behind rebel lines.

The rebel presence at the rubber plantation headquarters had effectively closed the airport. The 120,000-acre plantation,

the world's largest, is the country's biggest employer with 8,500 Liberian workers. It produces about 45 million kilogrammes of rubber a year.

Also Friday, religious leaders called for a ceasefire in the five-month-old war before "it degenerates into a tribal conflict."

The appeal from the Liberian Council of Churches and National Muslim Council of Liberia was broadcast Friday morning.

The church group called on Doe's army and rebels led by former bureaucrat Charles Taylor to agree to an immediate ceasefire, supervised by an international peacekeeping force.

Both sides also were asked to guarantee the safety of everyone under their control.

The council also called for a national conference to discuss the conflict and restoration of democracy.

The church leaders said the army should make special arrangements to avoid attacks on Gio and Mano people, whose tribes are associated with the

rebels. Rebels return were called on to guarantee the safety of Krahn, Doe's tribe, and Mandingos. Dozens of these two tribes have been killed by rebels in apparent retaliation for the killing of Gios and Manos.

Most of Doe's army had been confined to its barracks in recent days after allegations they had brutally murdered hundreds of Gio and Mano people.

In Abidjan, capital of neighbouring Ivory Coast, U.S. embassy spokesman Robert Petersen said three charter flights carrying Americans and other expatriates would be flown from a small airport in Monrovia to Abidjan Sunday.

Petersen said the evacuees would then board a chartered flight to the United States.

The United States has four warships, carrying 2,100 Marines, anchored off the coast of Liberia. The Marines would be sent in if hostilities reach the capital and endanger Americans. The United States also has agreed to evacuate other expatriates, including Soviets.

British ships also were off the coast. West Germany was preparing to evacuate about 100 German citizens and 100 other West Europeans, the Foreign Ministry in Bonn said Thursday.

A Nigerian government official said in Lagos, the Nigerian capital, that Doe would be welcome in that country.

Many foreigners in Liberia say they plan to stay. It was not clear how many of the estimated 2,000 or fewer Americans still in Liberia would leave.

U.S.-Liberian ties are historically close. Former slaves from the United States settled Liberia in the 1800s.

In November 1985, Brig.-Gen. Thomas Quiwonkpa, largely backed by Gios and Manos, tried to overthrow Doe. He managed to take over much of Monrovia before he was killed.

Hundreds of Gios and Manos were killed in revenge, according to international human rights organizations.

Taylor's rebels launched their invasion five months ago from eastern Nimba County, the homeland of Gios and Manos.

They have been within striking distance of Monrovia since reaching the gates of Robertsfield International Airport Tuesday.

Doe was dug in at his oceanside executive mansion in Monrovia and was quoted as telling a U.S. diplomat Thursday that the rebels would take this capital city of 400,000 people "over my dead body."

A Nigerian government official said in Lagos, the Nigerian capital, that Doe would be welcome in that country.

Thatcher, Gorbachev discuss future of Europe

MOSCOW (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher discussed the future of Europe with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev Friday, assuring him that a united Germany's membership of NATO would not be a threat.

The two leaders met in the Kremlin for two-and-a-half hours on the first full day of Thatcher's four-day visit.

British officials said 80 per cent of the morning's talks, which would continue over lunch and dinner, revolved around the future of Europe.

"Within that, of course, was the issue of German unification and NATO," a senior British official said.

He added that Thatcher "rehearsed the substantial points" she had made in a speech to NATO foreign ministers in Scotland on her way to Moscow Thursday, notably that post-unification German membership of the 16-nation Western alliance was fundamental NATO policy.

The official said Thatcher sought to ease Gorbachev's concerns on the subject by stressing that no NATO forces would be stationed in what is now East Germany and said Soviet forces would remain there for a transitional period.

Gorbachev has consistently rejected the idea of a united Germany in NATO, saying the Soviet public would take it as a reversal of everything they had fought for in World War II, during which up to 27 million Soviet citizens died.

Thatcher, an ardent and outspoken Gorbachev supporter, also elaborated on her all for NATO to take on a greater political role and seek to build peace rather than simply aim to prevent war.

The British official said the talks, the seventh meeting in as many years between the two leaders, were open and friendly and described the atmosphere as extremely good.

Gorbachev was host at a Warsaw Pact summit Thursday at which the seven-nation alliance formally abandoned its role as guardian of Kremlin power in Eastern Europe and committed itself to radical democratic change.

The two leaders briefly discussed the breakaway efforts of the Soviet Baltic republics, arms control, conventional force (CFE) reduction talks in Vienna and plans for a new European Conference on Security and Cooperation.

"I believe that from now on Peking University had best not try to depend on any student movement writing a big chapter in Chinese history. Times have changed," Lin was quoted as saying.

Many students believe the democracy movement they saw

Kirghizia death toll rises to 78

MOSCOW (R) — At least 78 people have died in ethnic clashes which have swept the Soviet Central Asian republic of Kirghizia over the past five days, the Soviet News Agency TASS said Friday.

The situation in the region surrounding the town of Osh, where the conflict between Kirghiz and Uzbekis was sparked Monday, was still "complicated," TASS added.

The death toll as a result of fighting between Kirghiz and Uzbekis has reached 78, with 33 injured... 249 houses have been burnt down," it said.

But the agency quoted Felix Kulov, military commander of the capital, Frunze, as saying the city had been relatively calm since authorities imposed a state of emergency Thursday.

The restrictions were introduced after a large crowd, demanding the resignation of the republic's leadership, tried to storm the Communist Party headquarters. TASS accused the protesters of trying to seize power.

A journalist at the official Kirghiz News Agency Kirtak said a mulah had addressed a large crowd in the capital and called on them to end the violence.

"He called on the population of Frunze and elsewhere to stop fighting and commemorate the dead," the journalist said.

Despite a few isolated incidents in Frunze overnight the city was calm, the journalist added.

In Osh itself, where the violence started Monday after an argument over land allocation, a town council official said Interior Ministry troops and police were patrolling the streets and that life was returning to normal.

"The town has been sealed off. There have been a few small clashes here, and there are minor outbreaks of fighting going on in outlying regions," she said.

Local authorities have declared a state of emergency in the town and surrounding regions.

The official said a group of Uzbek students had been allowed into the town to make sure their compatriots were safe.

On Thursday, Soviet Interior Minister Vadim Bakatin told parliament the unrest could explode into a major conflict engulfing the republics of Kirghizia and Uzbekistan.

Extra troops have been flown into the region to help local police keep order and prevent fighting between Uzbek and Kirghiz militants.

The conflict is one of the most serious outbreaks of ethnic violence in the volatile Central Asian region, where several hundred people have died in the past two years.

E. Germany denies plans for early joint German elections

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany denied Thursday that it had agreed with Bonn to hold joint German elections by Jan. 13.

"No time frame for joint Germany," government spokeswoman Angela Merkert said.

East German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher invited West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher as telling a NATO foreign ministers meeting in Scotland that Bonn and East Berlin had agreed on the early deadline.

The NATO official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told reporters that West Germany would scrap federal elections scheduled for Dec. 2 in favour of a pan-German poll by Jan. 13, the last day of the Bonn government's mandate.

The two Germans plan to merge their economies from July 1, the first and most important step towards full political union.

Bonnie previously suggested it want all-German elections by early 1991.

East German Prime Minister Leopold Mazziere has so far refused to commit himself.

The NATO official said De Mazziere, in Moscow for a summit of the Warsaw Pact, would inform Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev of the plan Thursday or Friday.

Merkel denied such a plan existed.

Meanwhile East Germany's freely-elected parliament, born of popular protest, was on the receiving end of dissent Thursday

when students demanding higher allowances broke in briefly and unfurled banners.

The students want their monthly grants raised from 200 marks (\$117) to 500 marks (\$294) per month when East Germany abandons its separate economic identity at the end of the month and converts to the West German mark.

"Things are going to get a lot more expensive and if we don't get the increase we'll be below the poverty line," said one student in a noisy crowd of several thousand demonstrators in front of the Volkskammer (parliament).

Debate was suspended briefly while stewards removed a group of students who were raining down leaflets on deputies from the visitors' gallery.

conference and had to return to his hotel," the ICRC spokesman said.

It was not clear whether he would have to cancel any more of his programme.

Mandela was to meet representatives of the World Council of Churches and the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees before travelling to Berne for talks with Swiss Foreign Minister René Felber.

Before flying to Bonn Monday, Mandela planned to rest at a secret location near Geneva, U.N. sources said.

IN PARIS, where Mandela began the European leg of his tour on Wednesday, South African members of the welcoming party expressed serious concern about his tax-free schedule.

"I think it is cruel," South African-born writer Breitenbach said. "I hope people will sit down and say 'that's enough; let's not squander the remaining forces of this man.'"

"I don't think that the world needs to be thanked in person by Mandela for having supported that which is a just and noble cause," Breitenbach, who is now a French citizen, added.

After a sustained international campaign, Mandela was freed in February after 27 years in jail for trying to topple white rule.

Meanwhile black South Africa's sympathiser of the Public Against Violence is favoured to emerge strongest from the voting — and the Christian Democrat Alliance of three parties.

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After what President Vaclav Havel called the "velvet revolution" overthrew Communism last winter, campaigning for the elections grew increasingly bitter, building to last-minute controversy over the Communist party.

The voters will choose 300 deputies to a new federal parliament charged with choosing a new president and then getting to work on revising Czechoslovakia's constitution to remove the last vestiges of 41 years of one-party Communist rule.

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